

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 05937

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, PINS, JA
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CARRIERS' CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY
. AT NARITA AIRPORT

REF: TOKYO 5493

SUMMARY: AS PROMISED REFTEL AMBASSADOR MENTIONED
CONCERN OF U.S. CARRIERS RE NARITA SECURITY TO
VICE FOR MIN ARITA. ARITA ASSURED US GOJ WILL TAKE
ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO INSURE SAFE OPERATION OF
FACILITY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT REGULAR MONTHLY LUNCHEON WITH VICE MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARITA, AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT
OF U.S. AIRLINES' CONCERN OVER SECURITY AT NARITA
AIRPORT. STRESSING THAT HIS REMARKS WERE PURELY
INFORMAL AND NOT TO BE CONSTRUED IN ANY WAY AS
A DEMARCHE, AMBASSADOR SAID THAT REPRESENTATIVES
OF FOUR U.S. AIRLINES SERVING JAPAN HAD CALLED ON
HIM LAST WEEK TO EXPRESS THEIR FEARS THAT IT WOULD
BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR
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PASSENGERS AND EQUIPMENT AT NARITA. HE NOTED
THAT SUCCESS WHICH RADICAL ELEMENTS HAD HAD IN
PREVENTING OPENING FROM TAKING PLACE ON MARCH 30
HAD FED THE RESERVOIR OF SUPPORT FOR THE OPPOSITION
GROUPS AND MIGHT MAKE ALMOST INEVITABLE FURTHER
DISRUPTIVE AND/OR TERRORIST ACTS. AMBASSADOR
ALSO SAID THAT AIRLINES HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THEY HAD

NOT AND WOULD NOT MAKE ANY KIND OF PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT THEIR FEARS. HE ALSO STRESSED FACT THAT U.S. AIRLINES EARNESTLY WANTED TO SEE NARITA OPENED TO TRAFFIC SINCE IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT CURRENT FACILITIES WERE INADEQUATE TO HANDLE PRESENT LEVELS OF TRAFFIC AND ANY HOPE FOR FUTURE GROWTH LAY IN AN EXPANDED NARITA.

2. ARITA REPLIED THAT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FULLY SHARED CONCERNS OVER SECURITY AT NEW AIRPORT AND WAS DETERMINED TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE MEASURE TO INSURE A SAFE AND SECURE OPERATION. HE SAID THAT GOJ HAD HEARD FROM THE IATA, WHOSE SUGGESTIONS HAD BEEN TO DEFER OPENING OF NEW AIRPORT FOR THREE YEARS-- A SUGGESTION WHICH IF FOLLOWED WOULD REPRESENT "SUICIDE" FOR THE GOVERNMENT. NO RPT NO FORMAL APPROACHES HAD BEEN MADE IN TOKYO BY ANY GOVERNMENT CONCERNING NARITA SECURITY. ARITA STRESSED THAT GOJ WOULD TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO INSURE SAFETY OF AIRPORT PASSENGERS AND EQUIPMENT AND WOULD BE FULLY RESPONSIBLE. HE EARNESTLY HOPED THAT NO PUBLIC MENTION WOULD BE MADE OF U.S. AIRLINES' FEARS.

3. AMBASSADOR ASSURED ARITA THAT HIS REMARKS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED INFORMAL AND THAT NO PUBLIC MENTION CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE MADE OF THE FACT THE MATTER HAD BEEN RAISED.

MANSFIELD

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